

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the allowance of claims 15-20 and 25-32 and for the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 13, 14, 22, and 24.

The Examiner has objected to the drawings for failing to show the packet bus 162, memory board 163, PRI trunk 165, other boards 166 and end points 167 in Fig. 2 as described in the specification, page 11, lines 5-8. Corrected Drawings are attached hereto.

The Examiner rejects claims 33-35 under 35 U.S.C. §101 because the claimed invention is allegedly directed to non-statutory subject matter. Claims 33-35 have been canceled.

The Examiner rejects claims 7-10 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Babiarz (U.S. 5,274,634); claims 11, 12, 21, and 23 under Section 102(e) as being anticipated by Simmons et al. (U.S. 6,164,054); and claims 1-6 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Babiarz in view of the Ohba et al. article entitled "On the Packet-Interleaved Interface Between Packet-Switched Network and Computers."

Applicant respectfully traverses the Examiner's rejections.

New independent claim 36 is a combination of independent claim 11, intermediate dependent claim 12, and allowable dependent claim 13; independent claim 37 is a combination of independent claim 21 and allowable dependent claim 22; and independent claim 39 is a combination of independent claim 23 and dependent claim 24. These claims are therefore allowable for the reasons set forth in the Office Action.

Applicant respectfully requests that new added independent claims 40 and 57 are allowable for the reason that the cited prior art fails to teach at least the following italicized features:

40. A method for operating a telecommunications system, the system comprising a controller, one or more telecommunication devices, and a communication interface positioned between and in communication with the controller and the one or more telecommunication devices, comprising:

(a) the controller determining whether at least one selected buffer maintained by the communication interface has sufficient available capacity to buffer a message;

(b) when the at least one selected buffer has sufficient available capacity, performing the substeps of:

(B1) the controller transmitting the message to the communication interface; and

(c) when the at least one selected buffer does not have sufficient available capacity, the controller not currently transmitting the message to the communication interface.

57. A telecommunications system, comprising:

a controller for controlling a plurality of telecommunications subsystems, each telecommunications subsystem including:

at least one telecommunication device and

at least one communication interface for interfacing between the at least one telecommunication device and the controller; and

a communication line connecting the controller with each of the telecommunications subsystems to form a network, wherein the *controller* is operable to perform the following operations:

(i) *determine whether a memory of the communication interface has sufficient available capacity to buffer the message;*

(ii) when the memory has sufficient available capacity, transmit a message to the communication interface; and

(iii) when the memory does not have sufficient available capacity, not currently transmit the message to the communication interface.

Simmons et al.

Simmons et al. is directed to a network having a shared memory architecture for storing data frames has a set of programmable thresholds that specify when flow control should be initiated on full-duplex network ports. The network switch includes a queue for storing free frame pointers that specify available memory locations in an external memory for storing data frames received from a network station. The network switch takes a frame pointer from a free buffer queue for each received data frame, and stores the received data frame in the location in external memory specified by the frame pointer while a decision making engine within the switch determines appropriate destination ports. Flow control is initiated based on the number of available frame pointers by transmitting a PAUSE frame having a short, medium, or long programmed pause interval if the free

buffer pool of available frame pointers falls below a high, medium or low programmable threshold, respectively. At col. 11, line 62, to col. 12, line 4, Simmons et al. teaches the use of a free buffer counter 246 that is decremented as free frame pointers are taken from the free buffer pool 104 and incremented as the frame pointers are returned to the free buffer pool 104 after stored data packets are output from the switch, freeing up resources in the external memory 34.

Simmons et al. teaches away from the present invention. Unlike the claimed invention, the receiving device (which in the claims is the communication interface) is responsible for determining memory availability in the receiving device rather than the transmitting device (which in the claims is the controller). In Simmons et al., the controller continues to transmit data until a PAUSE command is received from the controller in the receiving device. This feature present invention, in one configuration, permits the movement of the packet control driver/packet interface communications out of dual port RAM and removes packet control driver/packet interface communication dependency on hardware, thereby reducing costs.

Babiarz and Ohba et al. fail to overcome these deficiencies.

Babiarz

Babiarz is directed to a high speed communication link between peripheral nodes and a single multi-link layer protocol controller with an integrated HDLC framer in a main control complex. Peripheral nodes contain a very simple control that forwards all the HDLC D-channel data from the peripherals to a single MLAP controller; thus making the peripheral nodes small in physical size, extremely flexible to connect to new interfaces and very portable. Accordingly, it facilitates the efficient distributed deployment of the PABX.

Ohba et al.

Ohba et al. is directed to a study of the transmission control procedure for computer-to-computer and computer-to-terminal communication through a public packet-switched network. The article defines four types of data link are defined over a packet travel path in the network and

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discusses the functions required for the data. A process number and its associated control method are proposed as a method of packet-interleaved communication. By applying the result of the discussion and introducing the concept of a data link and a process number, a transmission control method and a call control method between packet-switched network and computers are proposed for the packet-interleaved communication on the basis of the HDLC procedure.

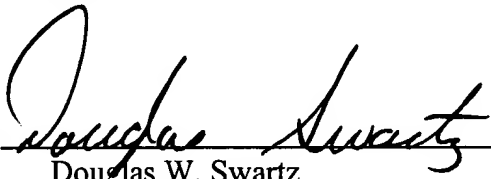
Accordingly, the newly added claims are allowable.

The newly added dependent claims provide further reasons for allowance.

Based upon the foregoing, Applicants believe that all pending claims are in condition for allowance and such disposition is respectfully requested. In the event that a telephone conversation would further prosecution and/or expedite allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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